



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena
State Historic Preservation Office, Helena
Big Blackfoot Chapter of Trout Unlimited
North Powell Conservation District
Lewis and Clark Conservation District
Wayne Hadley, Deer Lodge

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is a list of seven (7) draft Environmental Assessments (EAs) prepared for the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) Future Fisheries Improvement Program (FFIP). These draft EAs were produced for the winter 2015 funding cycle. The FFIP tentatively plans to provide partial funding to a series of projects that intend to restore fish habitat and improve wild fisheries.

To reduce printing and mailing costs, this letter will serve as notification that draft EAs have been completed and are available for your review. To receive a copy of a draft EA, please check the appropriate box(es) on the attached list and return the request to me at the address, email, or phone number below. Please note that funding for these projects through the FFIP is contingent upon approval being granted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The draft EAs also are available for review on the FWP webpage, at:
<http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/>

Please submit any comments by 5:00 P.M., February 16, 2015. Please note that these draft EAs will be considered as final if no substantive comments are received by the deadline.

Sincerely,

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Draft EAs prepared for the **winter 2015** funding cycle of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program include:

☐ **Douglas Creek fish ladders**

- Powell County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project calling for the installation of fish ladders on two Douglas Creek diversions.

☐ **Mulherin Creek fish screen**

- Park County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project calling for the installation of a fish screen on Mulherin Creek, which would prevent loss of Yellowstone cutthroat trout fry and adult spawners into the irrigation canal and provide passage around the diversion.

☐ **Shanley Creek restoration**

- Powell County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project calling for the decommissioning of approximately one mile of road adjacent to Shanley Creek and the renovation or replacement three undersized or poorly functioning stream crossings.

☐ **Stonewall Creek restoration**

- Lewis & Clark County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project to restore this section of Stonewall Creek by removing tailing piles, adding woody debris complexes to the stream, and restoring the adjacent floodplain and riparian area.

☐ **Theodore Creek fish passage improvement**

- Lewis & Clark County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project that would replace an undersized culvert with a pre-stressed concrete bridge structure.

☐ **West Fork Jacobsen Spring Creek restoration**

- Powell County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project intending to improve habitat in a section of stream that has been negatively affected by livestock and undersized culverts. The stream channel would be restored to a more natural configuration, and riparian vegetation would be added to provide streambank stability and cover.

☐ **Yukon Creek fish passage improvement**

- Lewis & Clark County. The FFIP is proposing to provide partial funding to a project calling for the replacement of an undersized culvert with a bottomless arch culvert capable of passing a 100-year flood event, which would create year-round connectivity and restore natural stream conditions.